

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An image processing system automatically generates a seamless and continuous developed still image with little distortion by creating a developed diagram in the circumferential direction of a tube from one frame of a video image of an inner wall of a tubular object photographed by a video camera while moving in the axial direction of the tubular object and stitching the developed diagrams with each other in the longitudinal direction (i.e., on a central axis) of the tube by mosaic processing. The system is provided with: a digital image data capturer for capturing video image data as digital image data from a recording medium having recorded thereon the video image data; a pipe projection converter for creating a developed diagram in the circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object with respect to each of frames of the captured digital image data; a mosaic processor for subjecting the developed diagram of each of the frames created by the pipe projection converter to the mosaic processing, to convert it into continuous and seamless developed still image data; an image data compressor for compressing the developed still image data; and a compressed image data storage for storing the compressed image data obtained by compressing the developed still image data; wherein the mosaic processor is of a type for cutting out and stitching strips of the developed diagram of each of the frames.